

UIMF networks with professionals at HLPF 2018



(L to R): Dr. Baktybek Abdrisaev, Advisor, UIMF, Mr. Richard Jordan, Damon Ashcraft, Samuel Elzinga and Andrew Jensen during the meeting at UN

Members of the Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF), a coalition of student clubs at Utah Valley University (UVU), during the visit to the ECOSOC High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development of the United Nations had the opportunity to meet with Mr. Richard Jordan on Monday, July 16, 2018. Mr. Jordan has been involved with the United Nations (UN) NGO activities for the last 39 years. Chief among his career, Mr. Jordan co-chaired the 60th Annual DPI/NGO Conference, entitled *Climate Change: How It Impacts Us All*, organized by the United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI) in collaboration with the NGO/DPI Executive Committee from 5 to 7 September 2007 at United Nations Headquarters. (See: <http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/annualconfs/60/RichardJordan.htm>).

He has a wealth of knowledge and experience and worked with the UIMF delegation during the visit to the 62nd Commission on the Status of Women in March 19-21, 2018. He was very kind

to help us to prepare for the next steps with our visit to HLPF in the UN. He discussed with us the plans of the UVU office of Global Engagement to host an event like the one that Richard chaired in the past.

Next fall, UVU together with Salt Lake City, would like to host a high-level event for NGOs across the globe with the intent to create a document that will eventually lead to some type of official UN acknowledgement. As an example, Mr. Jordan said that this type of event could feature workshops put on by a variety of groups, as well as consultations over a joint document. He explained also that it would be important for a document like this to be started as a zero draft and eventually culminate in a document that is accepted by acclamation. Mr. Jordan explained that once that document is created and adopted by acclamation, it will provide an opportunity for UVU, through one of the members of the U.S. Congress from Utah, to submit it into the Congressional Record, the official record of the proceedings and debates of the United States Congress, which will ensure permanent recognition of UVU and UIMF.

The next goal would be to utilize rapidly deployed technology to inspire one nation to sponsor the document through UN channels. The achievements of UVU and of UIMF thus always find its work officially acknowledged in the history of the UN. This would be a valuable advancement in the involvement of UVU at the United Nations.

This idea shared with us by Mr. Jordan during this routine meeting caused my great interest owing to my experience in the Model United Nations (MUN) club. Much of the time, the MUN club doesn't have many activities following the major conference in March in San Francisco. Following this, MUN students would have the opportunity to be able to use the skills learned in protocol and language within the Model United Nations to moderate consultations in this conference planned by UVU office of Global Engagement and help with the protocol and language of the outcome document that would be produced at this future conference in Utah. I am excited at the prospect of better applying what I have learned within MUN to move forward and advance the sustainable mountain development agenda of UVU and the UIMF.

Mr. Jordan helped us during all four days of our visit to HLPF and with our preparations to make an oral statement in particular, which I will describe in my separate write up.

Andrew Jensen, President, Model UN club at UVU